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SF (civil) Grand Jury

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UPDATE ON TUBERCULOSIS IN THE SAN FRANCISCO COUNTY JAILS

REPORT OF THE 1992-93 CIVIL GRAND JURY

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Update on Tuberculosis in the San Francisco County Jails

BACKGROUND:

The 1991-92 Civil Grand Jury investigated the increasing problem of tuberculosis in the San Francisco jails, and found that the jails did not have a tuberculosis screening program for inmates, although the guidelines of pertinent national and State agencies called for tuberculosis screening of inmates soon after entry into a prison. In March of 1992, the 1991-92 Civil Grand Jury released its interim report on the issue of tuberculosis in the San Francisco county jails. That Grand Jury expressed concerns about the transmittal of tuberculosis from infected inmates to uninfected ones, particularly those who were immune-compromised by HIV; to personnel of the Sheriff's Department; and to other staff who regularly come in contact with prisoners.

Th[illegible]l Grand Jury recommended that the City [illegible]ocate funds for an inmate tuberculosis [illegible]le simultaneously seeking State, [illegible] funding for a tuberculosis program. The [illegible]mended that the Health Department and [illegible]ent should begin immediately to [illegible]nsive tuberculosis screening program, [illegible]he jails.

[illegible]e Grand Jury's interim report, the [illegible]ision of the San Francisco Department [illegible]ucted a pilot tuberculosis screening [illegible] At the time of the final report of [illegible]nd Jury, the Department of Public [illegible]f's Department were developing a plan [illegible]n-going tuberculosis screening program

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REFERENCE BOOK

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1. As of January, 1993, the Department of Public Health and the Sheriff's Department have cooperatively developed and initiated an expanded tuberculosis screening program, funded by grants. Several problems of logistics in procedures, such as those related to security, have been dealt with, but others, such as the task of reaching every inmate upon entry into the jail and the follow-up of transferred inmates, still need to be resolved.

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Update on Tuberculosis in the San Francisco County Jails

BACKGROUND:

The 1991-92 Civil Grand Jury investigated the increasing problem of tuberculosis in the San Francisco jails, and found that the jails did not have a tuberculosis screening program for inmates, although the guidelines of pertinent national and State agencies called for tuberculosis screening of inmates soon after entry into a prison. In March of 1992, the 1991-92 Civil Grand Jury released its interim report on the issue of tuberculosis in the San Francisco county jails. That Grand Jury expressed concerns about the transmittal of tuberculosis from infected inmates to uninfected ones, particularly those who were immune-compromised by HIV; to personnel of the Sheriff's Department; and to other staff who regularly come in contact with prisoners.

The 1991-92 Civil Grand Jury recommended that the City and County should allocate funds for an inmate tuberculosis screening program while simultaneously seeking State, Federal, and private funding for a tuberculosis program. The Grand Jury also recommended that the Health Department and the Sheriff's Department should begin immediately to coordinate a comprehensive tuberculosis screening program, with follow-up, for the jails.

Subsequent to the Grand Jury's interim report, the Forensic Services Division of the San Francisco Department of Public Health conducted a pilot tuberculosis screening program in the jails. At the time of the final report of the 1991-92 Civil Grand Jury, the Department of Public Health and the Sheriff's Department were developing a plan for an expanded and on-going tuberculosis screening program for inmates.

FINDINGS:

1. As of January, 1993, the Department of Public Health and the Sheriff's Department have cooperatively developed and initiated an expanded tuberculosis screening program, funded by grants. Several problems of logistics in procedures, such as those related to security, have been dealt with, but others, such as the task of reaching every inmate upon entry into the jail and the follow-up of transferred inmates, still need to be resolved.

2. Staff of the Department of Public Health have developed a comprehensive draft manual for implementation of the screening program. A full-time staff member has been hired by the Department of Public Health to conduct tuberculosis screening of inmates.

3. The Sheriff's Department has started a tuberculosis testing program in which department personnel are tested for tuberculosis on an annual basis.

4. Considering the seriousness of the problem, the continuing focus of the Civil Grand Jury and other advisory bodies on the issue of tuberculosis in the jails is warranted.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The Department of Public Health and the Sheriff's Department should continue to work cooperatively in expediting solutions to the remaining obstacles for expansion and permanent operation of a comprehensive tuberculosis program for the jails.

2. With competent and dedicated staff in place for coordinating, implementing, and maintaining the screening program, the Department of Public Health and the Sheriff's Department should seek and act upon input from these staff members in matters related to program operations and staffing needs.

3. The Sheriff's Department is to be commended for starting its employee tuberculosis testing program and should continue to consider this program a priority for the well-being of personnel, particularly those who are high-risk.

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California. Grand Jury
(San Francisco)
Update on tuberculosis
in the San Francisco
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